

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
June 30, 2004**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) welcomes the recent rains that have occurred in the Los Alamos region. Fine fuel moistures are approaching 20 percent. However, a drying trend is predicted over the Fourth of July and the County will continue with fire restrictions that are already in place. Doug also described the Los Alamos Canyon Fire that occurred last Sunday. This fire was ignited by an electrical component in the canyon and burned for several hours before being contained. The fire was completely extinguished Monday morning. Buildings and structures, both in the canyon and on the adjacent mesa, were not at risk. Finally, Doug is requesting the removal of additional hazardous trees on County land.

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced the general continuation of Santa Fe National Forest Emergency Fire Closures. Changes to the previous closure order included the opening in the Jemez District of three campground and picnic areas, the Dome Wilderness, Forest Road 289, and segments of Forest Roads 268 and 36. Manny also reported that the recently installed dip tanks were used to extinguish the Los Alamos Canyon Fire.

Crystal Romero (Utilities and Infrastructure, LANL) reported that the installation of signs along the fire roads and firebreaks has begun.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has completed sampling for fuels and fire hazards at 19 permanent plots. The drought-related mortality of ponderosa pine has been approximately 14 percent. In Los Alamos Canyon, approximately 93 percent of the Douglas fir have been killed by the drought.

Bill Gall (National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Site Office) attended a meeting to report on the audits and assessments results of emergency management at LANL. Bill also announced that a new telephone system was installed in the Joint Information Center. In addition, the results of the baseline needs assessment will be reported to LANL management.

Lindsay Quam (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) announced the removal of hazard trees in Rendija Canyon for the Cultural Resources work that is being conducted there. Slash that is located in the canyon will also be removed in the next two weeks. The start date for fire hazard reduction in Los Alamos Canyon has not been determined.

Sam Loftin (Ecology Group, LANL) is completing the LANL Wildfire Management Plan and will distribute the draft plan for comments on July 22. Comments from reviewers are requested by July 29.

Phil Taylor (Emergency Management, Los Alamos County) and the County Emergency Management System gained valuable experience during the Los Alamos Fire. Several issues for improved communications were identified.

Gary Kemp (Fire Management Officer, Bandelier National Monument) announced that two fires, ignited by lightning, occurred near the intersection of Highway 4 and Highway 501 last week. The backcountry at the Monument will remain closed because of the current fire hazard levels.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, July 14, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.